

# WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

Devoted to the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of the Young.

Vol. I. Halifax, N. S. Thursday, December 31, 1863. No. 27.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT \$1 PER YEAR

IN ADVANCE, BY

W. Gunnubill, 155 Upper Water Street.

Subscriptions received by the Agents, and at the office of publication.

HALIFAX, N. S. DECEMBER 31, 1863.

## THE CLOSING YEAR.

Before this Number reaches the hands of our readers at a distance another year will have passed away: 1863, the commencement of which is so fresh, and but as yesterday in our memories, will have gone to join the years before the Flood. And while we warmly wish all our friends a happy New Year, with many returns of the season in prosperity and comfort, we feel constrained to address them in a few words of reflection upon the serious considerations which should regulate our feelings at this season.

We feel for the closing Year as for the departure of an old friend, never more to return. We have had many blessings and comforts along with the ordinary trials of life, during its course. Are we sensible of them? sufficiently thankful for them? We fear not. Let us reflect upon all the incidents that have occurred to us during the progress of the year, in so far as our memories serve us, and consider how we have met and improved them. Let us seriously think of the good that we might have done, but *did not*: and penitently of what our consciences may tell us that we have done amiss.

Another marked period of time has passed away, and each of us is now a year nearer the time—and we know not how soon it may be—when all our connexion with earthly concerns must cease. Seventy years is the allotted time of man's life. How few exceed or even reach it! And how very many never attain to half that sum!

While we part with the old year reluctantly, let each and all welcome the New Year with earnest resolution to improve whatever time may be in reservation for us, in the cultivation of the faculties with which we have been benevolently endowed. Not with selfish pur-

poses, but as in duty to our Maker, and kindness to our fellow men. We have all our several distribution of talents—let us remember the doom of that servant who hid his talent and did not improve it.

And now, in conclusion, we again heartily wish our friends a happy new year; and may all who are spared to see its close—and we wish that all may—be able to look back upon the days that have passed with inward satisfaction, and gratitude to the SUPREME DISPENSER OF ALL GOOD.

## Family Department.

In making selections for the edification of our young readers, we have also collected some useful hints, and other items of general interest to the family circle; and—believing that a compilation of valuable receipts, suggestions, and remarks relating to household matters, &c. will be duly appreciated by adult readers—have concluded to devote a portion of the present and future numbers of the *Weekly Miscellany* to this Department.

*Advantages of Wedlock.*—None but the married man has a home in his old age. None has friends, then, but he; none but he knows and feels the solace of the domestic hearth; none but he lives and freshens in his green old age amid the affections of his children. There is no tear shed for the old bachelor; there is no ready hand and kind heart to cheer him in his loneliness and bereavement; there is none in whose eyes he can see himself reflected, and from whose lips he can receive the unfailling assurances of care and love. He may be courted for his money; he may eat and drink and revel; and he may sicken and die in an hotel or a garret, with plenty of attendants about him, like so many cormorants waiting for their prey; but he will never know what it is to be loved, and to live and die amid a loved circle. He can never know the comforts of the domestic fireside.

*To Clean Canary Birds.*—These pretty birds are often covered with vermin, but they may be effectually relieved of them by placing a clean white cloth over their cage at night. The cloth will soon be covered with red spots, so small as hardly

to be seen, except by the aid of a glass; these are the vermin, that are a source of great annoyance to the birds.

*Moths.*—A pleasant perfume, and also preventive against moths, may be made of the following ingredients:—Take of cloves, carraway-seeds, nutmeg, mace, cinnamon, and tonquin-beans, each one ounce; then add as much Florentineorris-root as will equal all the other ingredients put together. Grind the whole well to powder, and then put it in little bags among your clothes, &c.

*Childhood.*—The shouts of playful childhood are eloquent of the heart's sweet music. There are no sounds that gush forth so full of the active, springing, overleaping joy that knows no boundary; and the associations with their gleeful melody are those of the purest pleasure.

Every man ought to reflect, by way of consolation, how much more unhappy he might be than he really is.

*Remembrances.*—The memories of childhood, the long, far-away days of boyhood, the mother's love and prayers, the voice of a departed playfellow, the ancient church and schoolmaster, in all their green and hallowed associations, come upon the heart in the autumn time of life, like the passage of a pleasantly remembered dream, and cast a ray of their own sweetness over it.

*Baked Apple and Almond Pudding.*—Take a quarter of a pound of sweet almonds, and a quarter of a pound of loaf sugar; pound all well together, then add the well-beaten yolks of six eggs. Grate the peel of one lemon, and add the juice of it and one tablespoon of flour. Mix well all together, whip the whites of the six eggs to a stiff froth, and mix them with the other ingredients before baking. Pour the whole upon a thick layer of stewed apples already prepared in a baking tin, and bake in a moderate oven until brown.

Whoever is honourable and candid, honest and courteous, is a true gentleman, whether learned or unlearned, rich or poor.

Before you ask a man for a favour, consult the weather. The same person that is as ugly as sin while a cold rain is spitting against the window glass, will do sooner feel the gladdening influence of a little quiet sunshine than his heart will expand like a rose-bud.

*Fruit-Storing.*—For general purposes, there is nothing better than open shelves. To keep long and fresh, we have found